

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025346

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 821 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA
DATED 29 JANUARY 1975:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0821

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UN, AORG
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION FEBRUARY 4-6; PREVENTING
POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

REF: STATE 17162

1. WE MET JANUARY 28 WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
IO AFFAIRS DE SELYS AND PERMREP TO ICAO PIRSON, BOTH OF WHOM
WILL ATTEND GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIONS, TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF
POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REVIEW IN DETAIL
US PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION (PARA 3, REFTEL). DESEYS AND PIRSON
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR TIMELY PRESENTATION OF US VIEWS, OF
WHICH THEY WOULD INFORM BELGIAN MISSION AT GENEVA.

2. OFFICIAL BELGIAN POSITION FOR GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIONS
STILL BEING FORMULATED. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, DESELYS
AND PIRSON MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS ON US PROPOSALS. BOTH NOTED
THAT GOB SHARES US CONCERN OVER POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED
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AGENCIES AND THAT US PROPOSALS WILL PROVIDE USEFUL BASIS FOR

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SOLUTION. THEY FULL AGREED THAT SOME PROCEDURE TO AVOID SPRINGING OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AT AGENCY MEETINGS ON SHORT NOTICE IS CALLED FOR. PIRSON, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATION ABOUT STEPS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO TOO GREAT INFLUENCE OR JURISDICTION OF UNGA OVER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. HE FELT EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO MAINTAIN STRONG DISTINCTION BETWEEN POLITICAL BODIES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND COMMENTED THAT PROBLEMS WOULD BE INHERENT IN GIVING COORDINATING ROLE TO ECOSOC SINCE LDC'S CAN MUSTER MAJORITY THERE. HE SUGGESTED THAT WHEN APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS ARISE SECRETARIATS AND LDC'S SHOULD BE REMINDED DISCREETLY THAT IN MANY CASES SPECIALIZED AGENCIES NEED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MORE THAN VICE-VERSA. DESELYS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONSHIP WITH AGENCIES' SECRETARIATS WOULD BE OF MUCH HELP IN STEMMING POLITICIZATION. HE NOTED THAT SECRETARIES GENERAL TEND TO LEARN DIRECTION OF MAJORITY THEN GO ALONG WITH IT RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO LEAD, SINCE IT IS ON MAJORITY THE DEPEND FOR THEIR JOBS.

3. PIRSON ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF NATURE OF GENEVA GROUP. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME MEMBERS OF GROUP WISH TO LIMIT ITS ACTIVITIES TO CONSIDERING FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS. WHILE US PROPOSALS REGARDING SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IMPLY BROADER ROLE. HE FELT BROADER ROLE FOR GENEVA GROUP IS APPROPRIATE BUT SUGGESTED THAT SUCH ROLE COULD BE BEST SERVED IF GROUP ALSO CONSULTED PERIODICALLY IN NEW YORK. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD DISCREETLY IN ORDER NOT TO AROUSE RESENTMENT AMONG WEO'S EXCLUDED FROM CONSULTATIONS OR GIVE IMPRESSION TO LDC'S THAT MORE PROSPEROUS MEMBERS OF UN HAD FORMED "RICH MAN'S CLUB" AT UN HEADQUARTERS. RENNER UNQTE KISSINGER

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